

**City of Raleigh  
Historic Cemeteries Advisory Board**

**Annual Report  
March 2011-February 2012**



(Mt. Hope Cemetery- pre-tornado)



(Mt. Hope Cemetery- post-tornado)

*Dear Mayor McFarlane and City Councilors-*

The City of Raleigh Historic Cemeteries Advisory Board (CORHCAB) is excited to present the annual report for the period of March 1, 2011- February 29, 2012.

**Background**

On September 2, 2008, the Raleigh City Council accepted the *Strategic Plan for the Inventory, Conservation, and Management of Raleigh's Historic Cemeteries* prepared by the Chicora Foundation, Inc. and authorized the establishment of a stakeholder group to work collaboratively with Parks and Recreation Staff in the implementation of the plan. The Board was approved by Council in January 2009 and has met regularly since March 2009.

The tornadoes which struck downtown Raleigh on the afternoon of April 16, 2011 uprooted and damaged a number of monuments, fencing, and trees in three city-owned cemeteries: City Cemetery, Mt. Hope Cemetery, and O'Rorke-Catholic Cemetery causing a significant amount damage to existing tree canopy, and damage to cemetery monuments, fencing, and other structures.

A summary of the clean-up and restoration work during this period is listed below:

**Archeological Service Contract**

Awarded to Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc.

Award amount: \$71,513.84

Amount spent to date: \$63,971.04

Comments: FEMA required a preliminary Archeological assessment of all damaged cemetery grounds before clean-up work could begin. CRA finished their work in approximately 2 weeks in August of 2011.

**Management Services Contract**

Activated Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) pre-position contract

Amount spent to date: \$63,325

Spent amount: \$54,813.75

Comments: SAIC was used to oversee project progress, coordination between contractors, processing load tickets from the tree debris contractor, verify invoice requests, and prepare reports for FEMA reimbursement.

**Tree Debris Clean-up**

Awarded to ArborMax Tree Service

Award amount: \$189,215

Amount spent to date: \$169,128.14

Comments; ArborMax crews began work in mid-November 2011 and completed all work by early January 2012. Approximately five (5) tons of vegetative debris was removed from the Cemeteries.

**Cemetery Headstone Repair-includes plot borders, retaining stones, and fence stone bases.**

Awarded to Dean Ruedrich D/B/A Ruedrich Restorations

Award amount: \$90,405

Amount spent to date: \$62,550

Comments: Approximately 200 gravestones were damaged from the tornado. Repair work is still in progress.

**Cobblestone repairs**

Comments: Scope of Work technical specifications are under review by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (NCSHPO).

**Wrought-iron Fence repairs**

Comments: Scope of Work technical specifications are under review by FEMA and NCSHPO. Perimeter fencing has tested positive for lead paint so technical specifications are being developed by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendor to direct the contractor how to handle and properly dispose of the lead paint waste.

A STATUS of each Work Plan goal for the term of March 2011-February 2012 is provided below. Unfortunately, many of the Board's 2011-2012 Work Plan items were sidelined as clean-up and repair efforts took place from May 2011 to present. However, very recently, work on several of the more significant items (e.g. the Maintenance Manual and the Landscape Plans) has resumed.

**Goal #1: Develop a Policy and Maintenance Manual for the operation, use, and routine maintenance of the City's cemetery properties. (carried forward from FY09-10). Develop archeology and cemetery design guidelines. (carried forward from FY10-11)**

Task 1: Develop a Policy and Maintenance Manual for daily operations.

Task 2: Assist in the development of archeology and cemetery design guidelines for incorporation into the Historic District Commission's updated Design Guidelines for 2010-2011.

*STATUS: An ad-hoc committee of the Board is meeting monthly to draft the Cemeteries Maintenance Manual that will incorporate US Secretary of Interior standards for archaeology and historic preservation, as well as updated Raleigh Historic District Commission (RHDC) design guidelines. Board Member Terry Harper served on a committee that updated RHDC guidelines, now waiting for review by the City's Attorney's Office before submittal to City Council for adoption.*

**Goal #2: To continue inventory and stabilization efforts within City Cemetery.**

Task 1: The Board will identify the scope and costs associated with an inspection of the mausoleums located at City Cemetery. (carried forward from FY09-10)

Task 2: Based on the FY11 assessment of and recommendations for the perimeter fence stabilization & restoration prepared by Dean Ruedrich, prioritize work based on costs.

*STATUS: The complete inventory of all stones and markers is available in GIS digital format at the Raleigh City Cemetery Preservation, Inc. Website ([www.rccppreservation.org](http://www.rccppreservation.org)).*

*Research into the scope and costs associated with Mausoleum inspections will roll forward to FY12-13.*

*Dean Ruedrich prepared a 'Conditions Assessment and Recommendations for Restoration of the Cast Iron Fence at City Cemetery'. Estimated repairs of the City Cemetery perimeter fence are between \$280,000-\$340,000*

**Goal #3: Develop/complete site amenities plan for Mt. Hope, O'Rorke-Catholic, and City Cemeteries. (carried forward from FY10-11)**

Task 1: The Board will work with City staff to develop site amenities plans for Mt. Hope and O'Rorke-Catholic Cemeteries and complete the amenities plan for City Cemetery.

*STATUS: Prior to the April storm, the Board identified replacement fencing for O'Rorke-Catholic Cemetery. The preferred style of fencing is the Conqueror Style with a single bottom rail, stepped to account for grade changes (level on top rail), with a double vehicle gate and a pedestrian gate. Funds are tentatively earmarked in the CIP account for this project in the amount of \$20,875. Work on site amenities plans all three historic cemeteries will continue in FY12-13.*

**Goal #4: Expand required signage at all 3 cemeteries. (carried forward from FY10-11)**

Task 1: The Board will identify needs and costs for signage at Mt. Hope, City, and O'Rorke-Catholic Cemeteries. (for identification, regulatory, interpretation/ educational, and directional)

*STATUS: The Board is reviewing how these funds can best be spent. Several ideas include installation of required signage associated with the recent Ordinance change and plaques recognizing the National Register of Historic Places status of Mt. Hope and City Cemetery. RCCP ([www.rccppreservation.org](http://www.rccppreservation.org)) received funding from the Raleigh Seed and Sod Garden Club to purchase one plaque at City Cemetery.*

**Goal #5: To preserve and protect unsecured items located in City Cemetery.**

Task 1: The Board will develop a protocol for the collection, inventory, and storage of unsecured items. (carried forward from FY09-10)

Task 2: The Board will complete an inventory of items stored in the mini-mobile.

*STATUS: These two work items will roll forward to FY12-13.*

**Goal #6: To secure and protect existing cemetery data and records. To promote web-based access to existing burial records by the general public.**

Task 1: The Board will work with City staff to plan for the archiving of existing interment records currently housed at Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Task 2: The Board will partner with RCCP ([www.rccppreservation.org](http://www.rccppreservation.org)) to provide web-based access of interment records of all 3 cemeteries to the general public.

*STATUS: These two work items will roll forward to FY12-13.*

**Goal #7: To research and develop a Volunteer Cemetery Watch program for City Cemetery.**

Task 1: The Board will work with Cindy Trumbower, Parks and Recreation Volunteer Services Coordinator to develop this program. (carried forward from FY09-10)

Task 2: The Board will request the Raleigh Police Department to provide routine patrols in all 3 cemeteries supplemented by the Community Watch program and assistance from the Fire Department at City Cemetery.

*STATUS: A Cemetery Watch meeting was held on April 26, 2011. Several members of nearby HOA's, members of the Police Volunteer team and Board members were present. Efforts to expand the Volunteer Cemetery Watch program will continue in FY12-13.*

*Task #2 will roll forward to FY12-13.*

**Goal #8: Update and expand marketing and public education efforts. (carried forward from FY10-11)**

Task 1: The Board will promote the implementation of strategies for City's cemeteries mentioned in Raleigh's Comp 2030 plan.

Task 2: The Board and Parks and Recreation Marketing staff will promote cemeteries as a component of the "Downtown experience".

*STATUS: These two items will roll forward to FY12-13.*

**Goal #9: To develop landscape plans for the three historic cemeteries to address tree replacement, screening, and general beautification utilizing historically appropriate species. (carried forward from FY10-11)**

Task 1: The Board will work with City staff to develop landscape plans for all 3 cemeteries.

*STATUS: A preliminary planning effort to address needed tree and vegetative replanting in all three cemeteries is underway. Work on this item will continue FY12-13 with an anticipated completion date of fall 2012 or spring 2013.*

Respectfully submitted by the City of Raleigh Historic Cemeteries Advisory Board.

April 24, 2012.